

RIDING APPARATUS AND METHODAbstract of the Disclosure

5 Improved riding apparatus and methods for use on animals. In one exemplary embodiment, the apparatus comprises a coordinated saddle pad system with removable inserts adapted for use on equines. The inserts help distribute the weight of saddle and rider over a plurality of locations, and mitigate chafing and rubbing of the saddle and pad against the animal, especially in the area of the spinal column. The exemplary inserts comprise resilient visco-elastic foam which has significant
10 pliability and compliance, yet with good memory. A sheepskin contact element is used to interface with the animal in order to provide maximal comfort, thermal properties, and moisture dissipation, as well as pressure dissipation. Method of using the pad apparatus, and for manufacturing the same, are disclosed as well.